

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2011
ISAAC MILLS HOUSE
ST. JAMES, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Vice Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Gregory Dawson	Chairman, Town of Islip
Michael J. Domino	Trustee, Town of Southold
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Richard Hollborn	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Dawn Hopkins	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Amy Engel	Member of the Board
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PARKS DEPARTMENT

Joseph Montuori	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Tony Trotta	Superintendent
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Chief Environmental Analyst, Planning Dept.
Pamela Greene	Director, Division of Real Property, Acquisitions & Mgmt.
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property,
	Acquisitions and Management
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office

PUBLIC PORTION

There were not any members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2011

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee McKay seconded by Trustee Hollborn. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Montuori reported on the following:

- The restaurant at Indian Island has opened. The renovations are complete and the restaurant looks great. The golf course looks good with the water falls.
- We are filling two permanent positions.
- We have installed WiFi at Southaven, Cupsogue, Indian Island, Meschutt, Shinnecock East and the Timber Point Marina. We're hoping to have everything online by the end of the year.
- Steve Jones is the new Director at the Long Island Maritime Museum.
- The sharks are gone for now at Cupsogue.
- Attendance is down due to the poor weather.
- The renovations at the Smith Point concession stand are complete. It looks good.
- Legislator Romaine put in a legislation to privatize marinas. We're working with the Parks Committee on not doing that. We are presently examining the fee structure.

Richard Martin passed around a copy of a memo from the Chairperson of CEQ (Council on Environmental Quality) to the County Attorney's office regarding the proposed wireless communications facility at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. This memo outlines their major concerns:

1. Does the lease of this land for the construction and operation of a wireless communication facility by a private entity constitute alienation of parkland and if so, should the County proceed with and complete the alienation process prior to taking any further action regarding this proposal.
2. Does the fact that this County proposal involves the lease of a public resource for a private purpose negate its superior governmental interest and therefore make the action subject to local zoning.
3. Under SEQRA, must the determination be made that the proposed action constitutes the least intrusive available alternative.

Richard Martin said that in addition to this memo, a letter was also sent directly to the museum requesting additional information if this was to go forward.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Cardillo asked if they had a liquor license at the Indian Island restaurant. Commissioner Montuori responded they are working on it and should have it soon.

Trustee White asked about the status of the restoration of Third House so it can be approved for public assembly. Commissioner Montuori responded we are working on it. We had a meeting with DPW on bringing it up to code for public assembly.

Pamela Greene reported that on June 7th the Legislature approved a home rule message in support of state legislation to alienate a small piece of parkland in Bay Shore which had been requested by the First Baptist Church so they could add on to their existing building. Pamela Greene said that the church has requested that this property's parkland designation no longer remain which would allow the church to use this property. There will have to be a determination by the state whether or not this will happen. Laretta Fischer reported that if it passes on the state level, it would have to come back before the County Legislature. Deputy Commissioner Bellone said it would then have to come before the Parks Trustees for a vote. Laretta Fischer said this is an important piece of property for the County, so the County offered to find another piece of property, which is not parkland, for the church to use to build their community center.

Richard Martin reported on the Isaac Mills House which was purchased by the County in 2007. At that time, the house was already listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places. It is part of a 200 acre historic district known as the Mills Pond Historic District. The house dates back to 1719 and is the second oldest house owned by the County. The west wing of the house is used as a residence and the rest of the house was proposed for office use. While the roof was replaced, unfortunately there is no funding to upgrade this facility for office use. The next steps would be to work on the framing and the porch.

Trustee Hopkins inquired if anyone knows what happened at the Parks Committee meeting yesterday with Legislator Romaine's bill. The Commissioner responded it was tabled again.

Trustee Hopkins asked if the West Hills Stables contract has been awarded yet. Deputy Commissioner Bellone responded we are working on it. There is a meeting tomorrow with the County Attorney. The old concessionaire won the contract but is still operating under the old agreement until the new one is signed.

Trustee Sickles reported he took a ride out to Peconic Dunes. The staff out there is doing a good job to take care of the facilities with limited resources.

Trustee Sickles asked about the long wall that Fred Marsilio built at the Meschutt Beach Hut. Did Mr. Marsilio start construction and then Parks found out about it? Commissioner Montuori responded that Fred Marsilio did talk to him about building the wall. The Commissioner said we are having problems with the neighbors complaining about the noise coming from the Beach Hut. We are trying to keep the noise down and we'll see if the wall works.

Trustee Sickles asked if Fred Marsilio submitted plans prior to building the wall. Trustee Sickles said the wall looks like it was slapped together. Commissioner Montuori responded "no" and that the wall can come down without a problem.

Trustee Sickles said he went around to a few of our facilities and it still looks like staffing is an issue. He noticed some of the offices were closed in the middle of the week and asked if we are having luck in getting the staffing numbers up.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone responded that all interviews for new hires are being held on the 12th floor in Hauppauge with a member of the County Executive's staff accompanying the Deputy Commissioner during the interview process. This has caused some delays.

Trustee Sickles responded he wanted to go on record saying this procedure was very unfair to the Parks Department.

Trustee Sickles said he visited Chris Sergeant, the Supervisor I from Indian Island Golf Course, who had a stroke and is now in a rehab center in Westhampton. Chris was very complimentary and thankful for all the help he received from Maryann DiBetta in the Personnel Department.

Terry Maccarrone reported that Smith Point is wrapping up Phase I of the electric upgrade. They should be out of there by the end of the month. They will be back after Columbus Day to do the campsite upgrades.

Terry Maccarrone reported a meeting was held a few days ago with DPW to do a general status update on all our Parks projects with them.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported that Nick Gibbons has a call into Gerta Fritz to see if she and her family would be available for a dedication ceremony at our July 21st Trustees meeting. Our July meeting was originally slated for Smithers County Park, but we are thinking of moving it to Southaven County Park so that on the day of the Trustees meeting we could go to Southaven for lunch and the meeting and then Smith Point for the dedication ceremony.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 21st. We will inform the Trustees of the location ASAP.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.